

WINTER STORM REMINDERS

With the pending storm on our doorsteps, it is a good time to put out a couple reminders of our policy and procedures regarding snow plowing and ice control. Also included are a few tips to help our drivers out.

A: Every road in Union is prioritized by volume and high volume roads are always the ones that get treated first more frequently. Some side roads we only treat every two to three trips. I really do know they drove right by, no need to call unless you just want to chat about the Patriots.

B: We have people out on the roads hours before the precipitation begins and you can rest assured if it is slippery, we are out on the job. Please refrain from calling Knox Dispatch or the Town unless it is a true emergency. If the snowbanks are too high we already know, if your mailbox came down we are sorry but we do not put up new ones. We may have temporary posts you can borrow, but please wait and call us a day or two after the storm.

C: Mailboxes More! Really we do not try to hit your box, and as I have said previously we do our best not to. Many, umm most come down because of the weight of the snow and not actually being hit by the plow. You can tell because if the plow hits it there is nothing left! We have assisted many residents this summer in placing their boxes in a safe place that keeps the post office happy and minimizes it from being struck. If yours has been hit several times it is in the wrong place.

Now the legal stuff: All mailboxes are in the right of way and municipalities are not allowed to spend public funds to replace them.

D: SAFETY, SAFETY AND SAFETY. Please do not enter the public works lot, especially during storms. Unfortunately we did not have all the OSHA rules in place when the facility was built and we have no safe parking and public entrance. Your cooperation keeps you safe and us from receiving fines that we all have to pay. For all of you that drop off goodies, please drop them off at the Town Office and we will make sure they get them and THANK YOU.

E: If you leave a message at Public Works please be mindful that there is seldom anyone there to answer the phone during storms. They are out working, so please do not call several times and make ummm some unpleasant remarks because we did not immediately call you back.

F: Can I get a bucket of sand? See D above, but sorry no. We do not have a safe place for the public to be during a storm and I kinda like to follow State law too. Boy can I tell you about abuses when we did!

G: You remember the bumper stickers that say “ if you can’t see my mirrors I can’t see you?” Well that is especially true in a plow truck, when we come to a stop sign most likely we are not going to simply stop and turn. There is a good chance we will be backing up to clean the intersection and if you are a couple feet from the back of the truck your vehicle will not be a match for the truck. If I really have to say this, yes, please do not pass us, I say again please do not pass us. If you must get by, flash your lights and the driver will pull over. We want to make sure when you hit something it is not us. Way too much paperwork!

H: Unfortunately, we live in an angry world at times. Some people get darn right looney at my drivers, and after being up for 20 hours or more, they can be a bit cranky too. If you have a complaint, lodge it at the office and do not direct your anger at the driver or our friendly local deputy will come visit you and tell you to be nice.

I: NO SNOW ACROSS THE ROAD If we have anything like last year the snow builds up fast, real fast, and I can truly understand your frustration of no place to put the snow. DO NOT plow it across the road, not only is it against the law it also makes you liable if a vehicle hits it and causes an accident. You’re not your hired driver, so tell your plow people not to do it, please. Mr. Deputy had to write way too many tickets last year and it gets expensive, we don’t want your money, we just want to keep the roads safe.

J: The Town Office often closes during storms. We really do not want you driving down from N. Union in a blizzard to register your dog. Yeah, true story and they were upset we were not open and guess what? Yup they hit the ditch on the way home. I know, I know you can’t fix stupid but we do try. Call before you head out please. 785-3658

K: Although our Ambulance Department appreciates the business, we really do not want to see you get hurt. Please slow down, that 4 WD does little good when you are driving too fast, it usually just helps you get off into the woods a bit further. Let’s have a safe winter and everyone at the Union Public Works will work hard to keep our roads in the best condition possible.